

Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

10 OCT 1984

Mr. Hugh Montgomery  
Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

We are now coming to the end of the long gestation period for the Soviet Interview Project (SIP) which has been under way within the academic community for the past four years. A major benchmark will be the presentation on 30-31 October 1984 by the SIP Research Team of the Project's first core findings to representatives of the Government.

I would like to propose that this presentation be held at Langley. It is important that the Research Team under [redacted] receive as much substantive response to their initial findings and assessments as possible. By holding the proceedings here, we can ensure a high level of in-depth knowledge and participation by a wide range of Soviet experts.

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As you know, Hugh, there has been a large investment of USG funds in this important project with DoD and CIA each contributing so far about \$3 million under the able direction of State's Paul Cook. During the "take off" of this project back in 1981 Harry Rowen, who was the Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and I both gave the SIP a high recommendation. Harry will be in town at the end of the month, and I intend to invite him to the SIP presentation.

We have already had some indications that the Research Team will request further financing to prepare manuscripts based upon the General Survey for publication and to complete preliminary reports on the various specialized studies currently being conducted under the SIP framework. Whether or not financing will be available will depend to a large extent on how well the SIP Team's initial findings and preliminary analyses are received. Toward this end I believe that holding the proceedings at Langley will facilitate the presence not only of a large number of our Soviet affairs analysts but also several interested National Intelligence Officers and our pertinent management and budget people. I am also told that we can make available to the Conference participants the Executive Dining Room for lunch.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

*for*

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SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. Hugh Montgomery, INR/State  
Soviet Interview Project

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